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appearance, being all well cultivated, and much ornamented by planting in various directions. A little hill, standing to the westward of the town, commands, towards the south, a pleasing view of a rich and cultivated valley, as well planted and as amply ornamented with houses, orchards, and hedge-rows, as any vale in England. The cottages and farm houses present that appearance of neatness and comfort which distinguishes the province of Ulster from many other parts of Ireland; the squalid misery and extreme wretchedness apparent elsewhere, and so irksome to the feelings of every benevolent mind, not being apparent here. The peasantry are rather well informed, and have in general that idea of independence which gives to the lower orders of this portion of the country such a decided advantage over those of the other districts of Ireland. They are, however, very superstitious, and attached to many old customs and pastimes.

A short distance from the town is a Rath or mound of earth, connected with another mound, in the form of an amphitheatre. It is fifty feet high, and, being planted with trees, forms a very pretty object, and is well worthy the inspection of the curious.

About seven miles from Ballymena, and in the back ground of our illustration, is the celebrated hill, Sleive Mish, where St. Patrick is said to have tended the swine of Milco.

Rather more than two miles from Ballymena, on the Ahoghill road, is the handsome village of Gracehill, a Moravian settlement, which consists of about forty houses and four hundred inhabitants, and forms three sides of a quadrangle—in the front of which is a very beautiful hedge-rowed pleasure-ground. Midway to this place is Galgorm castle, at present the property of Lord Mountcashel, and partially fitted up and inhabited by one of the agents to the estate. There is a legend here relative to a former proprietor, who is said to have sold himself to the devil for a certain remuneration in gold. The box which contained the treasure being still to be seen in one of the rooms of the castle.

This settlement was commenced about seventy-five years since, on a townland containing about two hundred and twenty acres, taken from Lord O'Neill, the entire of which is in a state of high cultivation, numbers of comfortable cottages, and thriving gardens, surrounded with luxuriant hedges, appearing in every direction.

Midway from Ballymena to Ballymoney, somewhat to the left, are seen the Craigs rocks, or Fort of Craigs, which form a square of nine thousand feet in area, with a very deep trench, close to which are three pillars erect and tapering, supposed to have been placed there in honour of some valiant chieftain slain in battle; and but a short distance from them, in the hollow of a high and craggy ridge, there is a cromlech, or druidical altar—a slab of black heavy stone, one foot in thickness, ten feet long, and eight broad, originally placed upon five supporters. Beneath this is a chamber which communicates with two others, about seven feet square, and arched over—the whole standing within a circle of one hundred and thirty-five feet in circumference, the ground underneath having formerly been hollowed into a kind of cavern. A writer in Mason's Statistical Survey, speaking of this place, observes—that it must have been the theatre of great events in former times; that it possesses more remains of antiquity than he has any where seen in the same space of ground. The place where the altar is erected is lonely and awful—it induces thought, and brings back the memory to former days, over which the mind broods with pensive pleasure.—Here Fingal and his clans of Mourné and Beiskené may have displayed their valour—Torgis and his Scandinavians committed their ravages—Sourleboy (i. e. *Yellow Charley*) and his Scotch played off their stratagems—or De Courcey and his English showed forth their heroism. All are now gone; a total change of laws, manners, religion, and war, has taken place—and a rational religion and mild government have blessed us with peace and knowledge.—See "*Northern Tourist*," published by Curry and Co.

HONORABLE SERVICE.

If one have served thee tell the tale to many;
Hast thou served many, tell it not to any.—*Opitz*.

SKETCHES OF CHINA—ENGLISH TRADE, &c.

Our principle import from China is tea, but we also bring from that country raw silk, nankeen piece goods, camphor, the paper used in copperplate printing, called India paper; toys, &c. Our exports to China from England are very limited; coarse woollens, watches, and flims, used by the Chinese in the manufacture of porcelain. The value of this is very trifling in comparison to the great quantity of tea we consume; and it is supposed by many, that the balance of trade is against us, and that we are obliged to pay in specie for our tea. This, however, is not the case, for we take to China large quantities of raw cotton, opium, and salt-petre, from our possessions in India; black pepper, rattans, ebony, sharks'-fins, and birds' nests from the straits of Malacca; and all of these we pay for in our own produce and manufactures.

It is the Americans who bring the dollars to China, as their other imports are limited to Turkey opium and sandal-wood; and when the trade is thrown open, we shall be able to cope with the Americans in the supplying the foreign European markets with tea, &c. As to our own tea we shall have it much cheaper than at present, as the profits derived by the East India Company on that article, cover their losses and expenses attending some of their foolish mercantile speculations elsewhere; but perhaps we may not have it of so good a quality as at present. No man can deal more fairly than the regular Chinese merchant; but the outside men (as they are called) who have no character to support or to lose, play all sorts of tricks; it is principally from the latter that the Dutch and Americans purchase—the East India Company never. Sometimes, however, the officers of their ships, who have a privilege in tonnage, do: and this tea is sold at the Company's sales in London, but not before it is examined; and if it is found bad it is not allowed to be sold in this country at any price. A few years ago some of this tea was found to be adulterated with the filings of iron, the next year a number of magnets were sent out, which being thrust into some of this adulterated tea, at once discovered the cheat to the astonishment and admiration of the Chinese, who said in the Anglo-Chinese jargon, "*Ha yaw, how can be English man number one first chop man!*"

The Chinese refuse to take any lessons from us in our system of free trade, nor can they be convinced that it is not their interest to tax their exports as well as imports; all exports are liable to duty, and of their imports, rice is the only one admitted free: it is brought from Java and Manilla by the Dutch.

The Russians are permitted to trade with the Chinese on the N. West frontier, near the great wall; all other nations at the port of Canton only. Three or four years ago, a Russian ship bound on a voyage of discovery, touched at Canton, but was not allowed to remain; the governor sagely remarking, that they must be importers, as Russia was on the north side of China, and that, therefore, the ship could not come from the south if it were Russian. The Russians convey their tea over land through Tartary, to Russia, and it is generally of a better description than that which comes from Canton to us. In some parts of Russia the tea is taken without milk, in place of which a slice of lemon is put into the cup, a lump of sugar is held in the mouth, and the tea drank whilst it is dissolving; by this means one half the sugar generally used in England suffices. Those who cannot procure milk, whether on board a ship or elsewhere, will find the lemon a good substitute; one thin slice with the rind on it is sufficient for two or three cups of tea, being pressed by the spoon according to taste.

Smuggling is carried on to a very great extent in China, particularly in opium, the introduction of which is interdicted under the penalty of death. A kind of tincture is made of this drug, a portion of which is introduced into a pipe resembling a flute in shape and size; the tincture is then set on fire, and the fumes inhaled, the effects of which at first, are somewhat similar to the inhalation of nitrous oxid gas; rapture takes possession of the soul, and the mind riots to exhaustion in the glare of a heated imagination—the senses are locked in forgetfulness—the opium smoker sleeps long and soundly, but awakes to every feeling of

shame and wretchedness—his health impaired—his business neglected—and to escape from himself, and the bitter cup of reflection, he flies to the opium again. But notwithstanding the severe laws against it, the shame and poverty it must entail, and its very high price, yet immense quantities of it are consumed by persons of all classes, and it forms one of the principal articles of import into the country. The East India Company are too honorable to sully their fair character, as legislators and merchants, by suffering it to be conveyed to China in any of their own ships; but by one of those nice distinctions, which it is difficult to see wherein lies the difference, are themselves the sole cultivators and dealers in this very opium which they prepare for the China market, at the same time strictly interdicting any British ship from conveying any other opium to China, save that purchased from the said honorable Company.

There is a small island not far from the entrance of the river on which Canton is situated, called Lintin; here at all seasons of the year, from ten to twenty sail of merchant ships of three hundred or four hundred tons burden, English, (i.e. of British India;) American, and Portuguese, are to be found with cargoes of opium. This opium is sold in Canton by the supercargoes and foreign merchants, and an order for delivery is given to the purchaser, who pays in advance, and removes the opium at his own risk. A boat, with thirty or forty men on board, brings this order to the ship; the opium is taken out of the boxes in which it was brought from India, and packed in small baskets holding about twenty pounds each, and it is thus carried through the country by the smugglers, who sell it at a profit of a thousand per cent to their countrymen.

Occasionally the imperial fleet are sent down from Canton to drive away these opium ships. The writer was fortunate enough to be on board a ship lying at anchor near Lintin, and witnessing one of these exhibitions. In the middle of the night we were roused by the Chinese admiral's ship running foul of us, and carrying away some of our yards; at day light we found ourselves in the middle of the fleet, consisting of fifteen sail of large junks, carrying six or eight guns each; they had flags hoisted in all the pride and pomp of glorious war. Notwithstanding this a smuggler boat very soon came alongside of us, and commenced taking in opium. This boat was long enough to hold 30 men, at as many oars; it was of a beautiful construction—sat as light as a prize-sailing wherry—and seemed to fly on the water. No sooner was it perceived by the admiral than signal was made, and each ship sent out a boat, manned by ten or twelve men (soldiers and rowers). Away went the smuggler with part of his cargo, and the ships' boats in chase, a soldier in each boat with a musket, firing at the smuggler, and when the latter got clear of us, the Chinese ships brought their guns to bear; with a good telescope I saw the faces of the smugglers who were pulling for life, with the boats nearing. Just as they doubled a cape of the little island they got a wind for their sail, which soon obliged the boats to give up the pursuit as hopeless. The admiral and his fleet weighed anchor, and returned to Canton, reporting that all the foreign ships were driven away. The smuggler sailed round the island and came to us again for the remainder of the cargo, without suffering damage from the shot or shells of the junks.

F.

IRISH HONOR.

In the beginning of the war in Germany, after the surrender of the Saxons near Pirna, the King of Prussia did every thing that a brave prince should not do, to corrupt the Saxon troops; he soothed, he flattered, he menaced, and his endeavours were very successful. He applied amidst a circle of officers, to one O'Cavanagh, an Irishman, who was colonel of the King's guards, "Sir," replied the hero, "my life, my fortune, you may dispose of, as they are in your power, but my honor, far beyond the reach of human greatness, you shall not, you cannot wound. I have given my faith to the King of Poland,

and this faith I will carry unsullied to the grave." This bold speech was honorably mentioned in L'Observateur Hollandois, and other continental papers of that day.

SIMPLE SCIENCE—ANTIMONY.

There is not, perhaps, a metal more valuable to the community either in medicine or the arts than, antimony; from it is made the well known *James powder*, which has for many years maintained the character of being one of the most useful patent medicines. Butyr of antimony, antimonial wine, and tartar emetic, are also preparations of this metal, and important auxiliaries to nature in many of her operations. But the art of medicine is not the only one indebted for improvement to antimony; that of printing has been signally served by its employment in the manufacture of types. Leaden types were too soft to bear the weight requisite to give a fair impression, and other metals necessary to increase its hardness would not melt easily enough, excepting antimony, which combines the requisite hardness with an easy fusibility that renders it very proper for the purpose, and with it and lead the type-maker forms an amalgam, quite hard enough to bear the impression, and yet not so hard as to cut through the paper. Antimony is found in Sweden, Saxony, Hungary, Norway, and often combined with silver or lead. It is a brilliant metal of a silvery white color, and though seemingly hard, may be easily cut with a knife; it suffers but little change by exposure to the atmosphere, excepting in the loss of a portion of its lustre. In years gone by, when dark eye brows were accounted a great beauty, sulphuret of antimony was used as a black pigment for staining them and the eyelashes. In the present day it is used for making specula for telescopes, and coloring glass, which it makes of a fine hyacinth shade. The preparations of antimony are in greater demand for cattle than any other medicine, they act as alteratives, and may generally be depended upon for the certainty of their effects.

E. B.

ON THE FORMATION OF DEW.

Every one knows that as soon as the sun begins to set, the dew begins to fall; but as many are ignorant of the cause of this, we shall endeavour to explain it. The rays of the sun act more feebly on the ground, and whatever covers it, just before the sun sets, on account of their taking a slanting direction. The air necessarily becomes colder, and, as it may be perceived, the grass under foot feels cold and damp. Now all bodies receive heat from the sun during the day-time, and on the return of night emit that heat, and become colder, unless they receive other heat to make up for what they have lost from the absence of the sun; if this were the case they would consequently remain as warm as before, but as it is not so they become cool, and the heat which they have emitted in cooling, surrounds them in the state of a warm vapour, which, coming in contact with the cold body, is condensed and becomes moisture. This is the cause of dew: after sunset, the grass or plants, and even the earth underneath them, emit the heat received during the day; therefore their temperature becomes colder, and the warm vapour coming in contact with their surfaces, is condensed, and deposited upon them in the form of little pearly drops of water which is called dew. On calm and clear nights, and during the presence of southerly or westerly winds, the dew is much more abundant than in stormy weather, or during a northerly or easterly wind. For if the night be windy, the warm vapour which is emitted is constantly kept in motion, and the temperature of the earth and herbage remain the same as before; but if the night be calm, the vapour is condensed without interruption. A southerly or westerly wind greatly helps the formation of the dew, as these winds carry with them much moisture, on account of their having to pass over a large tract of sea before reaching this country.

W. A.